

Y CHART

Topic: _____

Looks Like

Sounds Like

Feels Like


Diff. Tips
Week 9
Team 2, 2007


Possible Applications

1. This is a wonderful strategy for students who are sitting for the Writing Task in the Core Skills Test in Year 12 in Queensland. Students are offered a double sheet of stimulus material in the form of visuals or text. Many students are overwhelmed by the choice on offer and may take some time to get started. My advice is that they select either one or two areas of the stimulus material. If it is to be a single item, the student applies the Y Chart Analysis as in the Leadership example. Recently there was a picture of a pair of farmer's boots used as a visual stimulus for country life. Applying the Y Chart, a group of 80 Year 12 students spent 90 seconds on each segment. Nearly all of them generated ten ideas in each segment of the Y Chart, offering them thirty ideas with which to put together a written response on country life. In the 'Looks Like' segment, ideas such as a challenge, lonely, tyranny of distance, letters from banks, relatives, boarding school children, climate, highs and lows, a variety of farm animals and machinery, a large range of visuals associated with farming and the developments likely to eventuate. The 'Sounds Like' segment produced ideas such as rain, thunder, lightning, tractors and harvesters, the sounds of animals, sounds of elation, frustration, despair, comments such as "we'll fight on", "we'll manage", "we've done it!", conversations with neighbours and family over the telephone etc. The 'Feels Like' segment raised ideas on loneliness, success, elation, frustration, unity, fear, optimism, hope, feelings of grit, sweat, satisfaction, the taste of good food, rain on the face and so on.
2. When working with a group of Heads of Department who were involved in a process to revitalise their individual departments, I made the suggestion that they could complete two Y Charts. The topic for the first analysis could be 'My Department Today', and for the second the topic could be 'My Department – the Ideal'. Having done this, they could then invite the members of the department to complete the same exercise (see my note on Criticism and Information on page 35) using the headings, 'Our Department Today' and 'The Ideal'.
3. When acting as facilitator for a strategic planning and goal-setting session at a school, the members present (including teachers, Board members, cleaners, grounds staff, kitchen and boarding staff), we completed a similar exercise to the one above. The two topics were a) the school today and b) the school beyond AD2000. (See my note on Criticism and Information on page 35).
4. A suggestion I make in my workshops with parents is to look at the quality of their family. Keeping in mind my misgivings about the statement "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" (it may not be broke but could it be better?), I offer the suggestion that one way of improving family life is to do a two part Y Chart. The first Y Chart would consider 'Our Family Now' and the second would consider 'Our Family – The Ideal'. (See my note on Criticism and Information on page 35).
5. Creative writing – if asking students to write on a topic, e.g., A Nutty Professor, applying the Y Chart will lead to strong imagery in the 'Looks Like' segment. 'Sounds Like' will reveal comments of associates such as "Oh no!" 'Feels Like' will deal with frustration and embarrassment, etc.
6. In guidance situations, such as those dealing with bullying, asking the bully to complete the Y Chart can be a powerful learning experience especially when the facilitator asks the bully to imagine what the victim's home would 'Look Like, Sound Like, Feel Like'. This could include sad parents, poor reports, reluctance to go to school, feelings of low self-worth, etc. Change usually comes from within once self-awareness is present!

Examples of Y Charts from students at various schools follow on page 50. You will notice both concrete and abstract ideas and some very insightful thinking.

The Dirty Dancing Y Chart was based on a 12 minute section of the film where the teacher is leading a new student. The Swimming Pool Y Chart used the video/DVD from the excellent 'Discovering Democracy' kit showing Charles Perkins highlighting the local council laws regarding the use of public swimming pools in the 1960s.

 **SUE 1** _____

 **SUE 2** _____

